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HIRAM COLLEGE.

PREPARED FOR THE

"CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN OHIO."

BY B. A. HINSDALE, PRESIDENT.



Hiram College is located at Hiram, Portage County, Ohio, three and one half miles from Garrettsville, on the A. & G. W. Railway. The following sketch of its history will be divided into appropriate heads.

1.—FOUNDING OF THE ECLECTIC INSTITUTE.

This Institute, like so many other educational foundations, had its origin in a religious movement. Between 1820 and 1830 the body of Christians called THE DISCIPLES, sometimes simply CHRISTIANS, had its rise. As the body did not originate in any striking historical event, as a secession or an excision, but in general religious conditions, it is impossible to assign a definite date. From the first, this movement took a strong hold of Northern Ohio, and especially of the Western Reserve, where its following soon became large. At first the Disciples had no school of any sort, Bethany College, Bethany, W. Va., founded in 1841, being their oldest institution. As early as 1844-5, some of the Disciples of the Reserve began to feel that they needed an institution of learning under their immediate control; which feeling rapidly became general and grew into a confessed want. Nothing, however, was done to supply the want until the year 1849. In the intervening years there had been a thorough discussion of the project, and a substantial unanimity had been reached; as is shown by the rapid-

1876
1876

ity of the movement when once practical steps began to be taken. The first of these steps was taken by an informal meeting of representative men from several churches, held in Russell, Geauga County, June 12, 1849. This meeting was called at the suggestion of A. L. Soule, Esq., who was prominently connected with the enterprises of the Disciples in Ohio a quarter of a century ago. The proposition to establish a school was unanimously approved, and the secretary of the meeting was instructed to call, in its name, a convention of Church delegates, at which the views of a larger number of people might be ascertained. Such a convention was held in Bloomfield, Trumbull County, in August of the same year, when the proposition was again approved and a call issued for a second delegate convention, to be held in Ravenna in October. In Ravenna aims and plans were discussed. Some were in favor of establishing a college; others favored a school of high but not of collegiate rank. After discussion, the latter view prevailed, all the delegates acquiescing in the final decision. A third delegate convention, held in Aurora, November 7, located the school at Hiram. This was after a spirited contest, Russell having ten votes to Hiram's seventeen on the last ballot. A fourth delegate meeting was held in Hiram, December 20, when a provisional board was elected and other necessary action taken. The Legislature, by special act, March 1, 1850, granted a charter which had been drawn up by Charles Brown, A. S. Hayden, and Isaac Errett, assisted by Judge Leicester King, of Warren. May 7 following, the Board of Trustees organized under this charter. The same summer, near but a little south of the crest of the watershed dividing the waters of the Lake from those of the Ohio, in the middle of an eight-acre enclosure that has since become one of the most beautiful campuses in the State, as it is by nature one of the most commanding, a substantial, commodious, and beautiful building, three stories high, with a front of eighty-four feet and a depth of sixty-four, was erected. In this building, November 27, 1850, the new school went into operation. It was called THE WESTERN RESERVE ECLECTIC INSTITUTE. Isaac Errett, then pastor of the Disciples' Church in Warren, suggested the name. The leading promoters of the enterprise

were Adamson Bentley, Wm. Hayden, A. S. Hayden, A. L. Soule, Ebenezer Williams, W. A. Belding, A. B. Green, J. P. Robison, George Pow, Isaac Errett, Charles Brown, Symonds Ryder, Alvah Udall, Aaron Davis, J. H. Jones, Leicester King, E. B. Violl, M. J. Streator, Myron Soule, Benjamin Soule, W. A. Lillie, Zeb Rudolph, Anson Matthews, Alanson Baldwin, Wm. Richards, B. F. Perkey, J. A. Ford, Carnot Mason, and Kimball Porter. Most of these men were members of the Disciples' Church, fully one half being ministers. All of them were well known in Northern Ohio, and many of them had a much wider celebrity. Funds to purchase the grounds and build the building were obtained by individual and church subscriptions. At this distance it is impossible to tell what the first cost of the grounds, building, and furniture was. The Eclectic Institute was built by a popular movement, and there were no donors to the funds in such amounts as to entitle them to particular mention. The healthfulness of the locality, the morality and liberality of the community, and the existence there of a flourishing church, appear to have been the decisive considerations in locating the school at Hiram. At that time, it should be added, the railroad system of Ohio did not exist in fancy, much less in fact.

2.—AIMS OF THE INSTITUTE.—THE CHARTER.

The aims of the School were both general and special; more narrowly they were these:

- (1) To provide a sound scientific and literary education.
- (2) To temper and sweeten such education with moral and scriptural knowledge.
- (3) To educate young men for the ministry.

One peculiar tenet of the religious movement in which it originated, was impressed upon the Eclectic Institute at its organization. The Disciples believed that the Bible had been in a degree obscured by theological speculations and ecclesiastical systems. Hence, their religious movement was a revolt from the theology of the schools, and an overture to men to come face to face with the Scriptures. They believed, also, that to the Holy

Writings belonged a larger place in general culture than had yet been accorded to them. Accordingly, in all their educational institutions they have emphasized the Bible and its related branches of knowledge. This may be called the distinctive feature of their schools. The charter of the Eclectic Institute therefore declared the purpose of the institution to be : "The instruction of youth of both sexes in the various branches of literature and science, especially of moral science as based on the facts and precepts of the Holy Scriptures." What this special aim was, and how it has been realized, will be more fully stated under another head. Here follows an outline description of the machinery provided by the charter for carrying forward the work proposed.

The Act of Incorporation consists of seven sections. The first created George Pow, Samuel Church, Aaron Davis, Isaac Errett, Carnot Mason, Zeb Rudolph, Symonds Ryder, J. A. Ford, Kimball Porter, William Hayden, Frederick Williams, and A. S. Hayden, a body corporate and politic, by the name and style of the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute, to be located in Hiram. It further invested these corporators with the power of perpetual succession, and limited the capital stock of the corporation to \$50,000, to be divided into shares of \$25.00 each, and to be used for no purpose other than education. Section second clothed the corporation with the usual powers in respect to buying, selling, and holding property. The third declared that the corporate concerns of said Institute should be managed by a Board of Trustees of not less than nine nor more than twelve men, any five of whom shall constitute a quorum; and invested them with the power to fill vacancies, to appoint the customary Board officers, to select teachers, and to exercise a general management over the affairs of the Institution. Section fourth provided that the President of the Board shall execute all contracts and seal them with the corporate seal. Section fifth provided for the election by the stockholders of a Board of Trustees so soon as \$7,000 was subscribed to the capital stock, limiting the electoral power of the stockholders by this provision: "Provided that no stockholder shall have more than four votes for \$100, six votes for \$200, seven votes for

\$300, and eight votes for \$400 or more." It provided, also, that no one should vote on stock not paid up. One third of the Board, after the first election, were to be elected each year. The sixth section provided for annual meetings of the stockholders to elect trustees, but said a failure to elect should not work the dissolution of the corporation. The last section gave the Board power to make by-laws for the government of the Institution, and to prescribe the mode of transferring the stock. As it is an open question how College Boards of Trustees should be elected, it is proper to add that, in Hiram, the stockholders' plan has always worked well.

3.—THE ECLECTIC INSTITUTE AT WORK.

The Board of Trustees, July 17, 1850, chose A. S. Hayden, a preacher of culture, who had been connected with all the preliminary movements, Principal of the Institute. His principal associate in the faculty, at first, was Thomas Munnell, an alumnus of Bethany College, since more widely known as a preacher and the Secretary of the General Missionary Society of the Disciples. More help being needed, Mr. C. D. Wilber, since well known in the West as a geologist, and Miss Almeda A. Booth,* well known in Ohio as an elegant scholar and an accomplished teacher, were called to the assistance of Mr. Hayden and Mr. Munnell. Mr. Hayden taught Moral Philosophy and Sacred History; Mr. Munnell, Ancient Languages and History; Mr. Wilber, Natural Sciences; Miss Booth, English Studies at first, later, both Mathematics and Languages. In the Fall of 1851, Mr. Norman Dunshee, an alumnus of Western Reserve College now Professor of Mathematics in Oskaloosa College, Iowa, was called as teacher of Mathematics and Modern Languages. Changes in the corps of instructors were somewhat frequent.

*Since the above words were written, this estimable lady and accomplished teacher has passed to her reward. She came to Hiram in the spring of 1851, and remained in active service, except one year spent in Oberlin College, until Commencement, 1866—in all, forty-three terms. She came to Hiram as a teacher of English Studies, but soon became Principal of the Ladies' Department. She excelled in teaching English Studies, and also Languages and Mathematics. Her power over students was very great, and her death is lamented by thousands. After leaving Hiram, she served several years in the public schools of Cuyahoga Falls. It is no exaggeration to say that in Northern Ohio no lady teacher has surpassed Miss Booth, taking into account length of service, number of pupils taught, uniform success, and strength of personal influence.

In the catalogue for the year 1852-3, appear the names of Amaziah Hull, now Professor of Languages in Oskaloosa College, and J. A. Garfield, since so well known in the military and political service of the country; the first as teacher of Mathematics and Sciences, the second as teacher of English Studies and Ancient Languages. S. S. Hillier, now an attorney in New York, appears in two or three early catalogues. A little later, the names of H. W. Everest, now Professor of Natural History in Kentucky University, Lexington, Ky., and J. H. Rhodes, now an attorney in Cleveland, both prominent teachers, appear; the first in the department of Mathematics and Science, the second as a teacher of Mathematics and Languages, as well as of English branches. The names of other teachers whose work need not be described, since they were less permanent, scattered through seventeen years, are Mrs. Phœbe Drake, Laura A. Clark, Calista O. Carlton, Sarah Udall, and J. B. Crane. Other instructors who served for a brief period or in subordinate positions, are passed by for want of space. Provision was made for teaching Music, Drawing, and Penmanship. J. W. Lusk and the Spencers, father and sons, were for many years employed as teachers of penmanship. The learned T. E. Suliot served as an instructor for a time. In 1857, Mr. Hayden resigned the Principalship, and was succeeded by J. A. Garfield. The Institution, which had been very prosperous under Mr. Hayden's administration, now reached a still higher degree of prosperity. Mr. Garfield won a wide popularity as a teacher, manager, and lecturer on general and scientific topics. His active connection with the School ceased in 1861, though his name remained on the catalogue as acting or advising Principal three or four years longer. From 1861 to the organization of the college, there were frequent changes in the head of the School. H. W. Everest, C. W. Heywood, A. J. Thomson, and J. M. Atwater served for brief periods. After the School was fairly under way, most of the teachers were chosen from among those who had studied within its walls. Some of the instructors took high rank as teachers; a smaller number, a higher rank in other callings. The tuition receipts were the only funds available to pay instructors. As might be supposed, salaries were so small as to be almost insig-

nificant, and teaching was largely a labor of love. This fact goes a good ways towards explaining the frequent changes mentioned above. At the same time, all of the most prominent teachers remained a number of years, becoming completely identified with the School and doing an amount of excellent teaching in the spirit of self-sacrifice that has never been properly appreciated but by the few.

The Institute rose at once to a high degree of popularity. On the opening day, eighty-four students were in attendance, and soon the number rose to two or three hundred per term. Students came from a wide region of country. Ohio furnished the larger number, but there was a liberal patronage from Canada, New York, and Pennsylvania; a considerable number came from the Southern States, and a still larger from the Western. These students differed widely in age, ability, culture, and wants. Some received Grammar School instruction; others High School instruction; while others still pushed on far into the regular College course. Classes were organized and taught in the collegiate studies as they were called for; Languages, Mathematics, Literature, Science, Philosophy, and History. No degrees were conferred, and no students were graduated. After they had mastered the English studies, students were allowed a wide range of choice. The principle of election had free course. A course of study was published in the catalogue after the first year or two; but it was rather a list of studies taught as they were called for than a curriculum that students pretended closely to follow. Leave is taken of the Eclectic Institute with the remark, that it soon won and continued to hold a first place among Ohio schools of similar rank.

4.—ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE COLLEGE.

In the first part of this sketch, it has been stated that some of the founders of the Institution were in favor of establishing a college in the beginning. The proposition to re-organize it as a college was considered from time to time, until the Board decided to take that step. Acting under the statute of April 8, 1856, which empowers seminaries of learning incorporated by general law or special act to change their name and become colleges,

and after such change to confer the usual college degrees, the Board, February 20, 1867, changed the name of the Eclectic Institute, and clothed it with collegiate powers and responsibilities. As Hiram had become widely and favorably known as the seat of the Institute, the name now chosen was Hiram College. It was believed that this action would add to the usefulness and influence of the School, and that a stronger financial basis could be secured thereby. Both of these expectations have been met. June 19, 1872, the Board, in pursuance of the statute for such cases made and provided, increased the number of trustees to twenty-four. Except the action of February 20, 1867, and June 19, 1872, the original Act of Incorporation has not been changed. It should be added that a convention of friends of the Institution, held in Hiram, June 12, 1867, endorsed the action by which it was made a college. The College began its work August 31, 1867.

Instructors.

Dr. Silas E. Shepard, A. M., well known as scholar and writer, now of Troy, Pa., was the first President. He resigned at the close of one year. J. M. Atwater, A. M., Professor of the Ancient Languages under President Shepard, now pastor of the Disciples' Church at Worcester, Mass., succeeded him. After two years service he resigned. The present President entered on the duties of the office with the beginning of the College year 1870-71. He had previously taught several years in the Eclectic Institute, and had served one year in the College as Professor of History, Literature, and Political Science. A. M. Weston, A. M., since President of Eureka College, Ill., was Professor of Mathematics in the years 1867 and '68. J. C. Cannon, A. M., was the Professor of the Ancient Languages for the year 1869. Amzi Atwater, A. M., had served in the same capacity for the year 1868. I. N. Demmon, A. M., now the Principal of the Ann Arbor High School, held the same position with great acceptance in the years 1870 and '71. W. S. Atkinson, A. M., was the efficient Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy from 1870 to 1875 inclusive. Mr. O. C. Hill, now a member of the Senior Class of Williams College, Mass., was several years honorably connected with the

College as Principal of the Commercial Department. Misses L. M. Sackett and C. C. Munson, as well as Mr. E. B. Wakefield, have all rendered valuable services. Hon. T. W. Harvey and Capt. Wm. Mitchell have given normal instruction. At present the Faculty is organized as follows :

B. A. HINSDALE, A. M.—President, and Professor of Philosophy, History, and Biblical Literature.

G. E. BARBER, A. M.—Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages and Literatures.

G. H. COLTON, M. S.—Professor of Natural Science.

COLMAN BANCROFT, M. S.—Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy.

A. J. SQUIRE, M. D.—Lecturer on Chemistry and Philosophy.

MRS. MARIETTA CUSCADEN.—Principal of the Ladies' Department.

MRS. Mary E. HINSDALE.—Teacher of German.

MRS. J. C. ELLIS.—Teacher of Instrumental Music.

MRS. P. B. CLAPP.—Teacher of Penmanship.

Studies.

The change in the name and rank of the Institution did not essentially change its aims and spirit. The work formerly done has gone on all the same. It was the addition of a College department to an academical and preparatory school. The announcement put forth in 1867 declared the aim of the College to be, "to furnish a course of training as thorough as any in the country;" "to bestow careful attention upon the classical languages;" and especially, "*to give a fuller course than is common in those branches which are modern and national.*" The last clause is emphasized because it describes a distinctive feature of the College. More than ordinary attention is paid to Historical and Political studies, particularly to those that bear upon the duties and rights of the American Citizen.

Like most Ohio colleges, Hiram prepares most of her candidates for admission to her regular classes. The preparatory course to the Classical Course is divided into two years of three terms each. To enter the Junior Preparatory Class, students must have finished the common English branches and have studied Latin

two terms. The studies of the Preparatory Department are shown in the following table :

JUNIOR.	SENIOR.
Latin Reader, Latin Composition, First Greek Book, Science of Government.	Cicero's Orations, Latin Composition, Xenophon's Anabasis, Greek Composition, Algebra.
Caesar, Latin Composition, First Greek Book, History of the United States, Elocution.	Virgil, Xenophon's Anabasis, Greek Composition, Algebra.
Sallust, Latin Composition, Xenophon's Anabasis, Greek Composition, Rhetoric.	Virgil, Plato's Apology, Algebra.

The studies of the Classical Course are shown in this table :

FRESHMAN.	JUNIOR.
Livy, Homer's Iliad, Geometry.	Physics, Logic, English Literature.
Horace's Odes and Epodes, Demosthenes De Corona, Geometry, Conic Sections.	Physics, Rhetoric, Chemistry.
Tacitus, Botany, Trigonometry.	Astronomy, Anatomy and Physiology, Constitution of the United States, Genuineness and Authenticity of the Gospels.
SOPHOMORE.	SENIOR.
Surveying, American Political History, Cicero De Senectute, German.	Intellectual Science, History of Philosophy, Kames' Elements of Criticism, French.
General Geometry and Differential Calculus, Outlines of History, German.	Butler's Analogy, Political Economy, French Reader, Geology.

SOPHOMORE.

Zoology,
Antigone,
German Reader.

SENIOR.

Moral Philosophy,
French Literature,
Petite Histoire du Peuple Français,
History of Civilization.

The Latin and Scientific Course, of five years including the preparatory year, differs from the Classical in these features: it adds Integral Calculus to the Mathematics, subtracts two terms from the Latin, and omits all the Greek. The Scientific Course contains the same Mathematics as the Latin and Scientific, but neither Greek nor Latin. The Ladies' Course, of four years, contains six terms of Latin, and with the omission of the Greek, and two terms of Mathematics, does not otherwise vary from the Classical Course. Besides, there is a Teachers' Course of two years, and a Commercial Course of one year. Instruction still more elementary than is found in any of these Courses is furnished to those who need it. Considerable attention is paid to Normal Instruction. There are exercises in Composition, Declamation, and Elocution throughout the Courses. Frequent lectures are delivered in the Chapel to the whole body of students, on literary, scientific, and educational topics, as well as on general subjects of passing interest. Instruction is also given in Instrumental Music.

Degrees and Diplomas.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts is conferred upon Students who complete the Classical Course, and pass the examinations in the same.

The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy is conferred upon Students who complete the Latin and Scientific Course, and pass the examinations.

The degree of Bachelor of Science is conferred upon Students who complete the Scientific Course, and pass the prescribed examinations.

The degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy, and Master of Science are conferred, respectively, upon Bachelors of Arts, Bachelors of Philosophy, and Bachelors of Science, of three years' standing, who shall have been engaged during that period in professional, literary, or scientific pursuits.

Diplomas are presented to all who complete any of the other Courses in the Institution, viz : Biblical, Ladies', Teachers', or Commercial.

STUDENTS CLASSIFIED.

YEAR.	PREPARATORY CLASSES.	UNDERGRADUATES.					STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES.
		FRESHMEN.	SOPHOMORES.	JUNIORS.	SENIORS.	GRADUATES.	
1868	19	13	10	5	—	—	308
1869	13	20	9	4	3	3	277
1870	8	14	19	7	2	2	278
1871	8	13	12	10	9	9	267
1872	6	20	4	9	8	8	302
1873	7	7	15	2	10	10	286
1874	10	9	3	10	4	3	235
1875	11	13	10	—	7	7	233

The Alumni, now forty-one in number, are mostly following professional pursuits : the Law, the Ministry, or teaching.

LITERARY SOCIETIES

	WHEN FOUNDED.	INITIATION FEE.	ANNUAL DUES.	PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS.	NUMBER FROM BEGINNING.
OLIVE BRANCH, (Ladies' Society)....	1853	\$.50	\$1.50	19	502
DELPHIC	1854	1.00	1.50	21	521
HESPERIAN.....	1855	1.00	1.50	29	474

A Young Men's Christian Association was organized in 1868—Annual Dues, \$1.50. This Association supports a weekly Students' Prayer Meeting, and maintains a Library and Reading Room. It also provides for a yearly course of Public Lectures. Its total membership is one hundred and seven; the present, thirteen.

Mention should also be made of the Arion Society, organized in 1874, devoted to the cultivation of Music.

LIBRARIES.

	WHEN FOUNDED.	NUMBER OF VOLUMES.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUMES.
COLLEGE	1854	850	
DELPHIC	1857	790	
HESPERIANS	1859	617	
Y. M. C. ASSOCIATION	1869	271	2,528

The greater number of these volumes are of recent works, and they are in good condition.

Property.—Endowments.

The building first erected has thus far answered the demands of the College. Originally of excellent construction, it is still in good condition. The grounds are also in good and tasteful order. There is a felt want of a Ladies' Hall, but if an effort now being made to raise the necessary funds is successful, this want will be supplied. A handsome beginning towards an endowment fund has been made. Two gentlemen deserve honorable mention as donors to this fund; Robert Kerr, of Marion, Ohio, who has endowed a Chair of Historical and Natural Science, and George A. Baker, of Cleveland, Ohio, who has endowed the Chair of Mathematics and Astronomy. Also the

citizens of Hiram, who have endowed the President's Chair. A small but well selected and arranged museum should be mentioned.

The Building, Grounds, Apparatus, &c., are worth.....	\$25,000
The Endowments reach.....	65,000

Although the corporation is a common stock company, only a small part of its property is represented by stock; say one-fifth.

The College Year contains forty weeks, and is divided into three terms. Tuition in College studies is \$30.00 per year. A scholarship calling for eight years' tuition is sold for \$100.00. But few, however, have thus far been sold.

5.—SUMMARY.

The rapid rise of the Eclectic Institute to popularity has been already remarked upon. In twenty-five years the Institute enrolled, counting by years, nine thousand students. How many different students have studied for longer or shorter periods in Hiram, can not be ascertained without too much labor; but it is safe to say from five thousand to six thousand. Some of these remained only one or two terms; many from two to four years; while some have completed a course of study. The Eclectic Institute was a favorite training-school for College. Many of those who prepared here carried on their studies to the second and third, some to the fourth, year of the College course. A large number of students, without taking a complete course anywhere, have fitted themselves in Hiram for professional life. Notably is this true of school teachers. Many hundreds of excellent teachers have been sent to the army of educators. For more than twenty years a large number of schools, public, private, and academical, have been manned, in whole or in part, by Hiram-trained teachers.

The special aims set forth in this history have been fully realized. Hiram was never intended to be a school of special training, and has never been a Biblical or Theological Seminary. Still a large number of preachers have here been trained. Numerous are the positions of usefulness and responsibility occupied by this class of men. Special instruction in Biblical

studies has always been furnished to those desiring it. The agencies employed are text-book instruction, Chapel lectures, and special courses of lectures delivered by members of the Faculty or by lecturers called in from abroad. At the same time, it has never been the aim to call in students desiring such instruction only, save for short courses of lectures ; but rather to prepare young men for the ministry by providing them with general culture supplemented by special studies. To these students, the leading tenets of the Disciples have been taught ; but all attempts to exercise over the body of the students a peculiar denominational influence have been carefully avoided. Before the latter the Biblical topics that are considered are such as these : The books of the Bible, their history, authority, characteristics, personages, etc. Nor has the attention paid to these subjects been found to take from the ability of students to carry on their regular work.

The original charter, which has never been changed in this particular, defines the object of the corporation to be "the instruction of youth of both sexes." In Hiram the experiment of co-education has been successful. The education of youth is no doubt somewhat disturbed by what may be called the sexual differentiation, as most human activities are for that matter ; but the disturbance is no more where they are thrown together in the same school than when they are taught apart. On the other hand, co-education is attended by some positive advantages. In Hiram, however, ladies generally choose one of the shorter courses of study.

With the Centennial, the Institution whose history is given above enters on its second quarter century of life. It has survived a severe struggle with poverty. No other school in the State, it is believed, has put money to better advantage, or done more good work with the same cash expenditure. Such of its founders as have survived this quarter of a century, feel that their anticipations have been more than realized. They wrought under a religious impulse, but in no party or sect spirit. The thousands of students who have flocked to the school that they founded—coming from all churches and from no church—are the best proof of the spirit that these founders breathed into

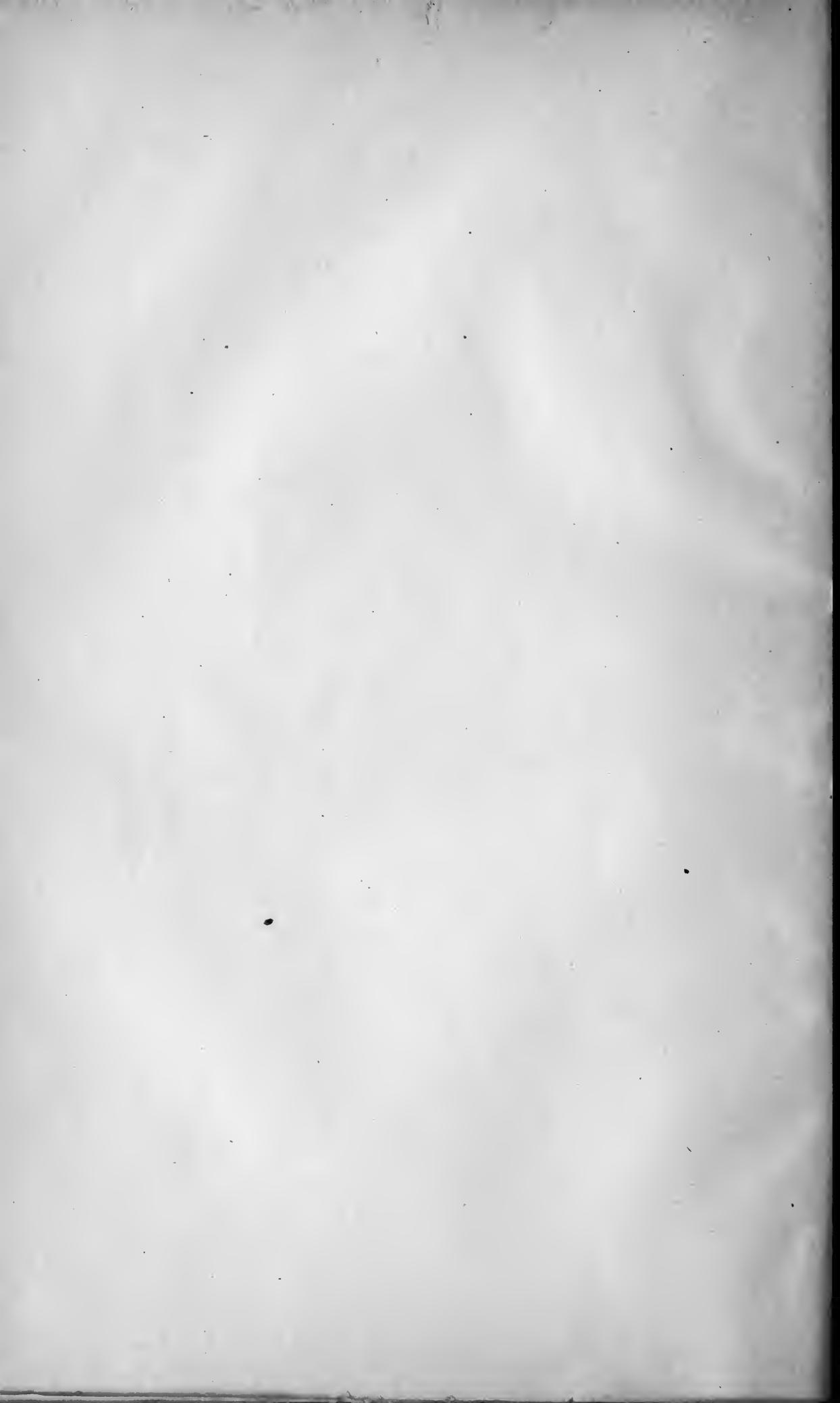
Hiram. In a late publication, the first Principal, speaking of its planting, says : "From this period the Institute has been before the eyes of the public, and its history is in the hearts of thousands of admiring students, who have from time to time enjoyed the benefits of its moral instruction and intellectual culture."* These students, scattered over the whole Union, are found in every walk of life, doing their share of the work of American society. This laborious and honorable history of a quarter of a century, is regarded as an element of power for the College's future work.

* History of the Disciples in the Western Reserve, p. 266.











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